

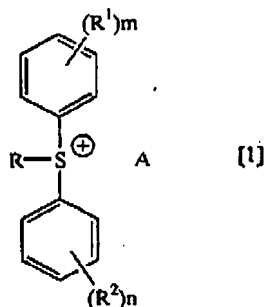
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

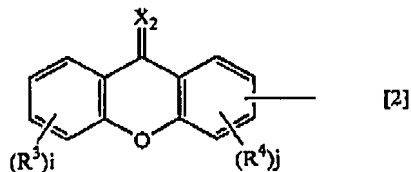
**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)

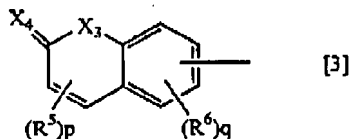
2. (Currently Amended) ~~An onium salt according to claim 1, wherein the A~~ heterocycle-containing onium salt ~~is one~~ shown by the general formula [1]:



[wherein R is a group shown by the general formula [2]:

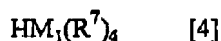


(wherein R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are each independently a halogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a halogen atom or an aryl group as a substituent, or an aryl group which may have a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms as a substituent; X<sub>2</sub> is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; i is an integer of 0 to 4; and j is an integer of 0 to 3), or a group shown by the general formula [3]:



(wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each independently a halogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a halogen atom or an aryl group as a substituent, or an aryl group which may have a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms as a substituent; X<sub>3</sub> and X<sub>4</sub> are each independently

an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; p is an integer of 0 to 2; and q is an integer of 0 to 3); R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are each independently a halogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a halogen atom or an aryl group as a substituent, or an aryl group which may have a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms as a substituent; m and n are each independently an integer of 0 to 5; and A is a halogen atom or an anion derived from an inorganic strong acid, an organic acid or a compound shown by the general formula [4]:



(wherein M<sub>1</sub> is a boron atom or a gallium atom; and R<sup>7</sup> is an aryl group which may have a substituent selected from a haloalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a halogen atom, a nitro group and a cyano group)].

3. (Canceled)

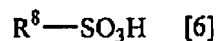
4. (Original) A salt according to claim 2, wherein the anion derived from an inorganic strong acid, shown by A is one derived from nitric acid, sulfuric acid, halosulfuric acid, perhalogenic acid or a compound shown by the general formula [5]:



(wherein M<sub>2</sub> is a metalloid atom or a metal atom; and k is an integer of 4 or 6).

5. (Original) A salt according to claim 4, wherein the metalloid atom shown by M<sub>2</sub> is a boron atom, a silicon atom, a phosphorus atom, an arsenic atom or an antimony atom; and the metal atom shown by M<sub>2</sub> is an aluminum atom, a titanium atom, an iron atom, a nickel atom, a zirconium atom or a gallium atom.

6. (Original) A salt according to claim 2, wherein the anion derived from the organic acid shown by A is one derived from a sulfonic acid shown by the general formula [6]:



(wherein R<sup>8</sup> is an alkyl group, an aryl group or an aralkyl group, which may have a halogen atom), or a carboxylic acid shown by the general formula [7]:

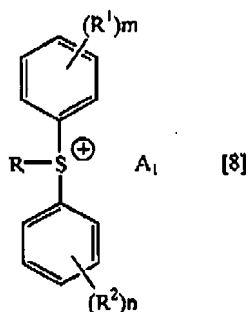


(wherein R<sup>9</sup> is an alkyl group, an aryl group or an aralkyl group, which may have a halogen atom).

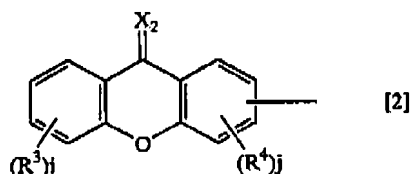
7. (Original) A salt according to claim 2, wherein R is a group shown by the general formula [2].
8. (Original) A salt according to claim 7, wherein X<sub>2</sub> in the general formula [2] is an oxygen atom.
9. (Original) A salt according to claim 7, wherein the group shown by the general formula [2] is a xanthonyl group.
10. (Original) A salt according to claim 2, wherein R is a group shown by the general formula [3].
11. (Original) A salt according to claim 10, wherein each X<sub>3</sub> and X<sub>4</sub> in the general formula [3] is an oxygen atom.
12. (Original) A salt according to claim 10, wherein the group shown by the general formula [3] is a coumarinyl group.
13. (Original) A salt according to claim 2, wherein the sulfonium salt shown by the general formula [1] is diphenyl(xanthene-9-one-2-yl)sulfonium hexafluorophosphate or (coumarin-7-yl)diphenylsulfonium hexafluorophosphate.
- 14-23. (Canceled)

## 24. (Previously presented)

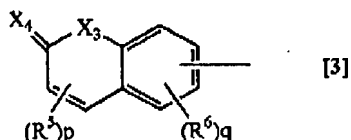
A cationic photopolymerization initiator comprising a heterocycle-containing onium salt shown by the general formula [8]:



[wherein R is a group shown by the general formula [2]:

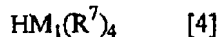


(wherein  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are each independently a halogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a halogen atom or an aryl group as a substituent, or an aryl group which may have a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms as a substituent;  $X_2$  is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;  $i$  is an integer of 0 to 4; and  $j$  is an integer of 0 to 3), or a group shown by the general formula [3]:



(wherein  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are each independently a halogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a halogen atom or an aryl group as a substituent, or an aryl group which may have a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms as a substituent;  $X_3$  and  $X_4$  are each independently an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;  $p$  is an integer of 0 to 2; and  $q$  is an integer of 0 to 3);  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently a halogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a halogen atom or an aryl group as a substituent, or an aryl group which may have a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms as a substituent;  $m$  and  $n$  are each independently an integer of 0 to 5;

and  $A_1$  is an anion derived from an inorganic strong acid, a sulfonic acid or a compound shown by the general formula [4]:



(wherein  $M_1$  is a boron atom or a gallium atom;  $R^7$  is an aryl group which may have a substituent selected from a haloalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a halogen atom, a nitro group and a cyano group)].

25. (Original) A polymerization initiator according to claim 24, wherein  $A_1$  is an anion derived from the compound shown by the general formula [4] or an inorganic strong acid shown by the general formula [5]:



(wherein  $M_2$  is a metalloid atom or a metal atom; and  $k$  is an integer of 4 or 6).

26. (Original) A polymerization initiator according to claim 24, wherein the sulfonium salt shown by the general formula [8] is diphenyl(xanthene-9-one-2-yl)sulfonium hexafluorophosphate or (coumarin-7-yl)diphenylsulfonium hexafluorophosphate.

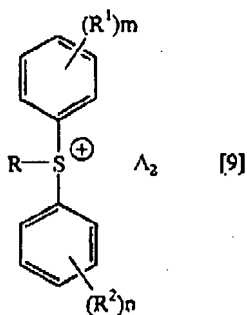
27-29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) A method for polymerization of an epoxy monomer, which comprises using the polymerization initiator in claim 24.

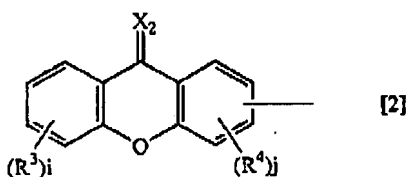
31. (Original) A method for polymerization of a vinyl ether monomer, which comprises using the polymerization initiator in claim 24.

32-33. (Canceled)

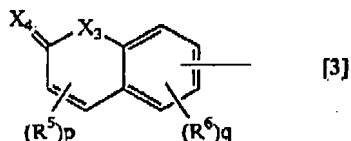
34. (Previously presented) An acid generator for a resist, comprising a sulfonium salt shown by the general formula [9]:



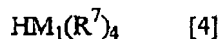
[wherein R is a group shown by the general formula [2]:



(wherein R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are each independently a halogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a halogen atom or an aryl group as a substituent, or an aryl group which may have a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms as a substituent; X<sub>2</sub> is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; i is an integer of 0 to 4; and j is an integer of 0 to 3), or a group shown by the general formula [3]:



(wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each independently a halogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a halogen atom or an aryl group as a substituent, or an aryl group which may have a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms as a substituent; X<sub>3</sub> and X<sub>4</sub> are each independently an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; p is an integer of 0 to 2; and q is an integer of 0 to 3); R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are each independently a halogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a halogen atom or an aryl group as a substituent, or an aryl group which may have a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms as a substituent; m and n are each independently an integer of 0 to 5; and A<sub>2</sub> is an anion derived from an inorganic strong acid, an organic acid or a compound shown by the general formula [4]:



(wherein  $M_1$  is a boron atom or a gallium atom; and  $R^7$  is an aryl group which may have a substituent selected from a haloalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a halogen atom, a nitro group and a cyano group)].

35. (Original) An acid generator according to claim 34, wherein the sulfonium salt shown by the general formula [9] is diphenyl(xanthene-9-one-2-yl)sulfonium hexafluorophosphate or (coumarin-7-yl)diphenylsulfonium hexafluorophosphate.

36-37. (Canceled)